



NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME
(MINISTRY OF HEALTH)
555, Evingale Mawatha, Colombo 04 Sri Lanka

Tel : 011-2368627,
Fax : 011-2368627
Email : nccpr@pabo.lk

My No. NCCP/ JUR/PATH/1
Date 27/05/2014

Dr. Kanthi Ariyaratne
Director / Private Health Sector Development
Secretary / Private Health Institutions Regulatory Council



**Surveillance of Cancers in Sri Lanka - Obtaining Cancer incidence data through
Private Sector Pathology Laboratories**

Surveillance of cancers is a process of systematic, continuous collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of epidemiological information on cancer patients occurring in a particular geographic area. National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) of Ministry of Health has conducted surveillance of cancers in Sri Lanka for more than 25 years mainly through Hospital Based Cancer Registry (HBCR) by aggregating registration of new cancer patients at all government cancer treatment units in Sri Lanka. Most comprehensive cancer incidence data could be obtained if it is a Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) in which cancer incidence data are obtained from all points of cancer diagnosis and treatment in both government & private sector in addition to merge with mortality data. PBCR was commenced in Colombo district from year 2012 with the guidance of National Advisory Committee on Prevention & Control of Cancers chaired by the Secretary / Health. The relevant circular issued by the Secretary/ Health was distributed among all health institutions in both government & private sector.

Most of the cancers are confirmed based on histological /cytological / haematological evidence. Therefore more comprehensive cancer incidence data could be obtained through pathology laboratory surveillance. The system was established in collaboration with College of Pathologists & College of Haematologists. Relevant data on laboratory confirmed cancers are entered to the Cancer Return Form - 1 by the laboratory staff and send to the NCCP Monthly. Most of the government pathology laboratories send their returns monthly. Since most of the private sector pathology laboratories are not

sending these returns currently, NCCP plans to contact private sector pathology laboratories in the country. I appreciate your cooperation in operationalizing this activity.

Please be kind enough to inform Private Health Institutions Regulatory Council & Directors & Heads of Private Hospitals & Laboratories to facilitate this activity.

Herewith I have attached the previous circulars signed by DGHS (on 29.04.2002) and Secretary / Health (on 20.09.2012) regarding surveillance of cancers.

If you need further information, kindly contact Director, National Cancer Control Programme through tel.no. 011- 2368627 or e mail - nccpol@yohes.com.

Your cooperation in this national endeavor is highly appreciated.

Thank you



Dr. Neelamani Paranagama

Director, National Cancer Control Programme

Director
National Cancer Control Programme of Sri Lanka
555, Elvitigala Mawatha
Colombo 05.

Cc. Secretary, DGHS, DDG (MS) 1 - for information

President, College of Pathologists

President, College of Haematologists

Chairperson, Association of Oral Pathologists

Table 1.1 Variables of the Cancer Surveillance

Variable	Remark
Patient details <i>(Patient identification details is essential in duplicate entry checking at the Cancer Registry Database)</i>	
Name	Full Name
Address	Patient's usual residential address
Age	In years
Sex	Male/ Female
NIC No.	National Identity Card Number
BHT No.	Bed Head Ticket No.
Tumour details	
Site of Cancer (Topography)	Anatomical site with sub site
Incidence date	Date of the first pathology report (the date of biopsy done)
Primary / Secondary/ Unknown	Primary site / Metastatic site/ not known
Histology / Cytology (Morphology)	Exact histology / cytology type with behavior & differentiation
History of Previous Malignancy	
Year/No	
Diagnosis	

